

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00591 070831Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 EUR-12 /108 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0372

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 0591

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG UNGA SHUM MA
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: UN COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REFS: (A) STATE 078358, (B) ANT 0489

1. FOLLOW-UP WITH RAZAFINDRATOVO PRODUCED THESE COMMENTS
ON SITUATION IN UN REGARDING CREATION OF POST OF HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCHR).

2. HE CANNOT SAY THAT DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR (DRM)
IS MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA THAN FORMERLY. DRM IS NOT
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE AND ITS POSITION MAY
EVOLVE IN THE LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT AS OF NOW HE CAN
ONLY ASSUME IT HAS NOT CHANGED. BESIDES, HE EMPHASIZED, IT
IS NOT A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY TO THE DRM, AS EVIDENCED BY
THE FACT THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL EXACTLY HOW THE VOTE ON
THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN PRESENTED OR WHAT THE FINAL COUNT WAS.

3. NO POSSIBLE INCUMBENTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY DRM DELEGATION
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. RAZAFINDROTOVO SAID IT WAS
ONLY HIS IMPRESSION THAT A FEW COUNTRIES WHO WERE NOW AGAINST
PROPOSAL MIGHT CHANGE THEIR POSITION IF THEY COULD FEEL ASSURED
THAT FIRST OCCUPANT OF POSITION WOULD BE TRULY NEUTRAL, BUT
HE COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT NAME ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRIES.
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ELABORATING FURTHER ON HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED OPINIONS
HE NOW THOUGHT NEITHER AN AUSTRIAN NOR A SWISS WOULD BE
SUITABLE, AS THERE IS ALREADY AN AUSTRIAN IN A HIGH UN
POSITION AND SWITZERLAND IS NOT A UN MEMBER. NOR DID HE
THINK AN AFRICAN WOULD BE A GOOD CHOICE--WE HAD SPECULATED
THAT SENEGAL OR MADAGASCAR WOULD BE QUALIFIED BY THEIR
RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO PRESENT CANDIDATES--FOR THEY WOULD

JUST HAVE PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS UGANDA
AND GUINEA ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID HE NOW THOUGHT A
SCANDANAVIAN WOULD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE CHOICE, AND I UNDERSTAND
THIS TO MEAN A SWEDE.

4. COMMENT: FROM RAZAFINDROTOVO'S REMARKS IN PARA 2 ABOVE
I WOULD CONCLUDE THAT DRM WOULD NOT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FAVOR
CREATION OF AN HCHR IF IT FOUND IT IN ITS INTEREST DO SO,
I.E., AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES, OR IF PROPOSAL WERE SLANTED TO EMPHASIZE THIRD
WORLD CONCERNS SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
AND MATERIAL RIGHTS.BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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